

Obi-Wan Trilogy - Chap 3 - Before The Rebellion

by Noggins

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Title: ...Before the Rebellion

>
Author: Jonathan Evans

>
Author email: noggins@connectfree.co.uk

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Category: Between the Trilogies

>
Summary: Sequel to "The Dark Times". Four years after his

>encounter with a fallen Jedi, Obi-Wan decides it is time to
heal his relationship with his brother but is soon stopped

>by a dangerous rescue. This story was told in some detail in
the New Hope novel but I hope to add to the tale.

>
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>money off of this nor do I intend to (I'd like to but that's not the

point). You can distribute this freely provided that it's

>complete with this disclaimer.

>...BEFORE THE REBELLION
By Jonathan Evans

>
Four years? Had it really been that long? Of course it had. He had

>put this off for way too long and he knew it. Being on Tatooine must
have taken away all of the Jedi bravery he once had. To be afraid

>to speak to his own brother brought home the painful memories of what
was their last true encounter...

>
"You're no longer my brother, Kenobi," he had said "If it wasn't for

>your foolishness he would not have even found Luke. I never want to
see him being touched by this Force of yours! I don't want to see you

>in my home again. Get outta here!"

>Ben frowned. Why had he let this affect him so badly. He had

become
more and more like a hermit after this and it wasn't until his

>encounter with the dying Jedi Grinfrad that he knew he had to do this.
"There is still some good in him," the ancient Chadra-Fan had

>informed him. Ben had thought he meant Anakin - Vader - but maybe it
had a double meaning. It had taken him four years to work it out.

>He also meant Owen. He had to patch things up soon. He felt that if
he didn't do it now he never would.

>
He looked into the chest that was in the corner of his hut. Inside

>he saw Anakin's lightsaber next to his own. Just as he was about
to reach for the more familiar of the two to take on his journey,

>his hand was guided, perhaps by the Force, to Skywalker's.

He
picked it out. Luke was now fourteen and more than able to use

>it. If things went well with Owen perhaps he would be allowed to
begin training the boy.

>
He took out the lightsaber and pulled his cloak over his sand worn

>robes. Upon stepping out into the desert a harsh wind blew into his
face. He hated this planet, he hated its barely adequate resources and

>most of all he hated being so close to but so far away from his
little brother.

>
It would be a long walk but it would be good for him. It was early

>morning and only the first sun had come risen making the first part
of the trek a reasonably cool one.

>
He began stepping on the worn desert floor that had no doubt been

>trodden on by Tusken over the centuries. They had been here long
before the earliest settlers yet despite the millennia, they

>remained a mystery to those who cared. If the Empire had even the
remotest interest in Tatooine, the native Sand People would be wiped

>out.

>A sudden feeling struck him through the Force. It seemed so familiar
yet had the slight feeling of a stranger to him. He followed his

>instinct. That's what Qui-Gon had taught him. Feel, don't think. Use
your instinct. He had forgotten that for far too long. He didn't

>notice Anakin as he reached closer towards the Dark Side when surely
if he had used his instincts it would have been so clear to him.

>
As he moved around the rock mesas he reached a high cliff face.

>Looking down he saw the nest of a Krayt Dragon, native creatures
on Tatooine that cared only about feeding themselves and their

>young on whatever came across. In this case it was two boys who
had fallen into the nest. One had his leg stuck between two

>rocks while the other tried bravely to fight off the creature
with several stones found on the floor.

>
Ben climbed down carefully. He was not as young as he used to be

>and while in his youth this obstacle would have been dealt with
easily, now it made him struggle.
>
He finally made it to the bottom as the blonde boy ran out of

>throwing objects. He looked and saw Ben.
"Hey! Mister! What are you doing?"

>"Rescuing you, my boy," the old man replied as he closed his eyes
and stretched out the Force to reach the creature.

>"Be calm... These are not your food... be calm... leave us... you
do not need feeding now..." he told it telepathically. Soon the

>Dragon turned and moved away quietly. Ben turned to the two boys
who looked amazed.

>
The dark haired boy, the one with his foot stuck, was the first to

>speak. "What happened? I thought we were dead for sure."
"Krayt Dragons can sense your fear," Ben told a half truth. "All it

>needed was to see someone acting less... erratically than yourself
to realise we were not a threat."

>"Wow. That's amazing."
"Not really," the old man smiled. "You discover these things after

>living here as long as I have. Did you know Tusken Raiders initiate
their young into the clan by killing a Krayt Dragon."

>"Well they deserve it," the blonde boy said angrily.
It was then that Ben realised who he was speaking to. It had been so
>long and he had changed but the fire in him was like his father's.
"Luke?" Ben asked, already knowing the answer. "Luke Skywalker?"

>
Luke was amazed that this old man knew so much about the Dragons but

>was shocked that he even knew his name.
"Yeah... how'd you know?"

>Ben didn't answer. He began to free the leg of the other boy and soon
it was able to move freely again.

>"Do you know *my* name?" he asked excitedly.
"I'm afraid I do not. My... abilities only extend so far."

>"Oh. Well, I'm Windom."
"But everyone calls him Windy," Luke interrupted.

>
Ben smiled. "Well, boys, the jundland wastes are not to be travelled

>lightly. I'm sure your parents have told you that."
"I haven't got any parents," Luke said sadly. "I never knew my mother

>and my father died before I was born. I live with my aunt and uncle."
Ben acted as if he didn't know. He had to make sure that he didn't

>reveal to the boy that he knew too much. He choked a little but soon
Windy brought him back to his senses.

>
"We got lost when we were chasing womp rats," he said. "We were trying

>to find a nest so we could blast it when we get our T-16s next year."
"You shouldn't take the lives of other creatures..."

>"But they're vermin!" Luke protested. "That's what Uncle Owen tells me."
"I'm sure your uncle has his reasons."

>"Yeah! They attack our farm and bite into the power generators on our
vaporators."

>"So you're a farmer are you?" Ben asked, testing the waters for

Owen's
influence on the boy.

>
"Well," he replied with a hint of boredom in his tone. "I don't want

>to be. I want to join the academy and become a pilot like my father."
"Your father was a pilot?"

>"He was a navigator on a spice freighter that did the Kessel Run. He
sometimes had to fly it too. My aunt says he was one of the best."

>Ben smiled. So at least Beru was telling the boy part of the truth.
No mention of the pod races though but he doubted Luke knew what they

>were. Once they were banned on Malastare there was no hope left for the
Rim worlds that had followed the lead of that former system.

>
"That's very interesting," Ben smiled. "Now, shall I help you get back

>home. I'm sure your aunt and uncle are worried about you."
Luke nodded. Windy began aching for the attention the old man was

>paying to his friend.
"I live closer. Maybe you could drop me off on the way."

>"I'm sure I could," Ben said.

>* * *

>After taking Windy home Ben was able to speak more with Luke. He wanted
to know how much Owen had told him and more importantly how much he

>hadn't. He discovered that Luke knew nothing at all about the true origins
of his father and nothing of his mother. That made him feel worse. How

>could his brother forget to tell him about Amidala. Sure, he could
never mention she was once the queen of a now destroyed planet but

>he could have told him how beautiful she was and what an impact she had
on Anakin even from their first meeting.

>
They finally reached the homestead. Luke called to Beru and Owen and

>before they could come to him he looked at Ben.
"Mister? You haven't told me your name."

>"My name?"
Suddenly the bulky figure of Owen Lars came from the small house.

>"Kenobi!" he shouted. "What did I tell you about coming here!"
"Young Luke was lost. I helped him find his way home."

>"I wouldn't be surprised if you tried to abduct him you crazy old
wizard!"

>That hurt Ben more than anything Owen had ever said to him before.
He tried to hold his tongue but couldn't.

>"But maybe he would not have got lost if you'd looked after him!"
"What do you know about looking after people under your care, Ben

>Kenobi? Nothing! That's what!"

>The two brothers were about to engage in a brawl when Luke jumped
in between them.

>"He helped me uncle! And it wasn't your fault. I didn't tell you
where I was going. Sorry!"

>
Owen grunted. Beru's voice was heard from the lower level of the

>homestead.
"Owen! Give the man a break. He was only trying to help Luke."

>She came up again and Ben saw her for the first time in way

too
long. He never expected her to be affected by life on Tatooine
>but her former beauty had been lost and a hardened but kindly
old
woman now stood before him. Their eyes met but they tried
>to hide it from both Owen and Luke.

>Owen Lars shot a glance of annoyance at Beru but she realised
he
had not noticed the look between her and Kenobi.
>"Beru! How can you say..."
"If Ben had not been there what would
have happened to Luke?"
>"I'm sure he'd have found his way back. He's a clever
boy."
Kenobi finally interrupted. There was a hint of anger in his

>voice which he tried to repress but his brother always seemed
be
bring it out in him.
>"I don't think he's clever enough to avoid becoming the snack
of
a Krayt Dragon. Not unless he has the right training..."
>
Owen finally snapped. "You and your damn training! Can't you get

>into your head - your kind are dead. You're crazy in the head!
I
told you before and I'll tell you again - you're not wanted

>here!"

>Ben sighed. There was no point in arguing. Why did he even
bother
trying. He looked up to the sky and sent silent apologies
to Qui-Gon,
>and Grinfrad. He truly was weak. It seemed Luke was beyond
his
reach when something happened.
>
A stray wind blew his robe aside and Luke noticed the object at

>Kenobi's side glint in the sun. He pointed at it.
"What's that?"

>Ben wasn't sure what he meant then suddenly realised. He reached

for his belt and detached the lightsaber handle.
>"This, Luke, is..."
Owen hit his hand and the weapon flew in the
air and landed on the
>hot floor.
"Enough!" he shouted. "Get off my property before I'm
forced to
>get out my blaster rifle!"

>Ben nodded and reached to the floor for the lightsaber. He
turned
to see Owen dragging Luke back down to the homestead but
noticed
>the boy looking back at the mysterious item that he had seen
and
the strange old hermit who had saved his life...
>
THE END

End
file.